

NEWARK INTERRACIAL COMMITTEE.
Newark, N. J.

June 6th, 1934

(as presented by
N. J. State Soc.
W. L. H. Hardy)

Dear Friend:

In a recent meeting of the Executive Board of the Interracial Committee, reports of discriminatory policies being employed by the Emergency Relief organization suggested the necessity of immediate and concerted protests by white and colored citizens of Essex County. In this organization today, there is not one Negro worker engaged in clerical, stenographical or supervisory capacity; there is not one Negro worker in either the city, county, or state headquarters; not one Negro has been appointed to a supervisory position in the important Housing Survey project. Approximately thirty-seven case workers and investigators, and five recreation leaders, constitute the entire representation of Negro white-collar workers in the county!

In outlining a program of protest, a number of influential citizens have been selected because of their concern in injustices of this nature. You are one of that number. The enclosed sheet presents briefly the degree of recognition we are demanding, but these demands are futile unless enforced by a demonstration of public concern.

Will you, therefore, accompanied by one or two persons of your own choosing, visit at least one of the officials listed below, and present to them your views on the necessity of recognizing these demands? And will you arrange to make such representation some time before June 16th? If each persons requested to do so will co-operate in this plan, we are certain that the very evident exclusion policy now in force will be abandoned. We are enclosing a postcard for your convenience in reporting the nature and result of such contacts as you may find possible to make. The officials are:

Mr. Arthur R. Jones, Dep. Director, County ERA-744 Broad St.
3rd Floor.

Miss Alice Halpin, County Work Relief Division-744 Broad St.

Mr. Chas. Durr, County Personnel Manager -744 Broad Street

* Mrs. C.E. Ballard, County Social Work Supervisor 744 Broad St.*

Mrs. Rose Calahan, State Personnel Div. RWD-20 Washington Pl.

Mrs. Edna Kerr, State Personnel Manager, 20 Washington Place

Mrs. Edwin Parker, Acting City Administrator-43 Washington St.

Mr. Clayton Cook, City Personnel Director - 43 Washington St.

Mrs. Marjorie Woodcock-State Recreation Proj.-20 Washington Pl.

* Mrs. Ballard is largely responsible for placement of colored workers and deserves commendation from committee.

Very truly yours,

Mrs. Joseph Riker
(Mrs.) Joseph Riker, President
Arthur W. Hardy, Sec'y.

The following proposals represent plans that have been suggested to the several officials of the Emergency Relief Administration of the city, county and state, and should be the basis of any further representations made by local visitation committees:

1. At present, the activities of the State ERA are being directed by a State Advisory Board of which Mr. John Galt of Trenton is chairman. Just recently a similar body was formed in Essex County, with Peter A. Smith as chairman. On neither body is there a representative of the Negro group. We feel that recognition of the Negro on these boards is necessary for the proper interpretation of the peculiar problems faced by the Negro in the Emergency program; also that such representation affords a degree of protection which is extremely necessary in view of experiences under CNA and the ERA set-up thus far.
2. For similar reasons, and in addition, that their presence may be the means of creating a more favorable attitude toward Negro workers generally; that new programs and projects being instituted may not be withheld as in the past; and that sympathetic and understanding hearing may be gained by Negroes this group, we should recommend the placement of qualified Negro workers to advisory positions in State, County and City administrative offices.
3. Negro clerks, bookkeepers and stenographers formerly employed by small Negro businesses and elsewhere, should be given equal opportunity with other workers in this field. This would conform with the Federal organization plan, wherein such positions have been distributed to workers without regard to color.
4. Negro workers in the social work field, clerical positions and elsewhere in the Emergency set-up should be required to meet the same requirements in training and general education as workers of other groups. On the other hand, they should not be required to present a higher degree of training than that demanded of other workers.